

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 210127

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DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES

REF: MOSCOW 13420

1. THE NEW US ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE US CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES WERE EX-
PLAINED ON SEPTEMBER 9 TO SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELORS
ISAKOV AND ZNAMENSKIY BY LOS TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN MOORE
AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. MOORE EXPLAINED THAT THE
PROCEDURES REFLECTED NO RPT NO NEW US CLAIM IN REGARD
TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, BUT RATHER A US INTENTION TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 210127

PURSUE ENFORCEMENT MORE STRICTLY THAN IN THE PAST. MOORE

ALSO COMMENTED THAT EXISTING US-SOVIET BILATERALS ON FISHERIES COULD EASILY BE ADJUSTED TO ENCOMPASS THE NEW PROCEDURES. MOORE ALSO PLACED THE NEW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EFFORT TO AVOID PASSAGE OF THE 200 MILE FISHERIES BILL AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CLOSE COOPERATION WE HAVE HAD ON LOS ISSUES.

2. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, THE SOVIETS INDICATED FULL AWARENESS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION BEFORE CONGRESS WHICH WOULD UNILATERALLY EXTEND US FISHERIES ZONE FROM TWELVE TO 200 MILES. WHILE RESTRAINED IN THEIR COMMENTS, THE SOVIETS LEFT NO DOUBT AS TO THE UNDESIRABILITY IN THEIR VIEW OF THIS LEGISLATION.

3. LOOKING OVER TESTIMONY ON THE NEW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED CONCERN ONLY OVER THE PROVISION FOR THE ARREST AND SEIZURE OF ANY VESSEL TAKING CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES (E.G. LOBSTER AND CRAB) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. THE SOVIETS SEEMED REASSURED WHEN TOLD THAT VESSELS SUBJECT TO ARREST AND SEIZURE WOULD BE ONLY THOSE ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN THE TAKING OF CSFR, AND THAT IT WAS NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT ONE VESSEL COULD BE ATTACHED FOR THE TAKING OF PROHIBITED RESOURCES BY ANOTHER.

4. MOORE NOTED THAT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON THE PROCEDURES WOULD BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY, AND THAT WE WERE INFORMING CERTAIN INTERESTED EMBASSIES -- THE FIRST BEING THE JAPANESE AND THE SOVIETS -- IN ADVANCE.

5. TEXTS OF THE NOTE AND RELATED DOCUMENTS ARE BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY MOSCOW. INGERSOLL

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